

## Child Protection Foundation Training



# Scene Investigations and the Home Safety Checklist

# **Core Competencies**

- ▶ Examine a scene to identify evidence of abuse or neglect.
- ▶ Accurately measure water temperature from a faucet per Procedure 300 using an approved thermometer.
- ▶ Reconstruct the scene to determine validity of the explanation.

# Core Competencies Continued

- ▶ Construct a 72 hour timeline to evaluate plausibility of cause given to injury to child and record this in a manner that will provide a medical consultant with information needed to make an informed judgment on validity of cause given.



# Scene Investigation

- ▶ Part of the overall investigation
- ▶ Collect information that will be useful during other segments of the investigation
- ▶ Record
  - Child's developmental stage
  - Each person's description of the last 72 hours;
  - Each witnesses' description of how the injury occurred SEPARATELY
  - Description of the location of the injury and any objects that are involved in the injury

# Scene Investigation (Cont'd)

- ▶ If not witnessed, record each person's description of what they saw before and after the injury
- ▶ Ask about the victim's behavior before the injury and immediately afterward
- ▶ Ask about the caretaker's behavior before the injury and immediately afterward
- ▶ Look around – *What else do you see?*

# Time Lines

## Paramour's Statements

Time he said mom left for work

Times he gave for time of injury

**5/19  
4:00PM**

**5/20  
8:30AM**

**5/20  
8:30-9AM &  
11 -11:30AM**

**5/20  
3:00 &  
4-4:30PM**

Time child fell into rocking chair hitting his head

Time she said she left for work; Time card states she punched in at 6:30 AM

Time she told police she got home from work and saw injuries

## Mother's Statements

# Time Lines (Cont'd)\_

## Paramour's Statements

Biological father  
and PGM took child  
to ER

**5/21 5:00PM**

Paramour is arrested  
for aggressive  
behavior

**5/21  
6:55PM**

**5/20 9:30-  
10PM**

Paramour's mother  
expressed worry about  
the child and took him  
to her house

**5/21  
6:00PM**

Mother arrives  
at hospital  
angry w/ PGM

**5/21  
9:10PM**

Mother told CPS  
she was afraid  
of DCFS because  
of things that  
were out of her  
control

## Mother's Statements

# Scene Reenactment

- If the injury happened outside the home, you must talk to the people who live with and take care of the infant/child
- Bring a doll to the scene but do not bring the doll out until you are ready to do the reenactment
- (*AFTER you have collected the information at the scene*) ask the people involved to demonstrate what happened, one at a time
- Starting at the time the person last saw the child before the injury (or before the injury was discovered) you want them to place and move the doll to explain what happened (ask them to demonstrate)



# Scene Reenactment (Cont'd)

- If there is more than one injury, you need an explanation for each one
- If possible take a photograph of the scene, if not, describe the location in detail
- Take and record measurements if necessary to explain the incident
- Injuries on an infant or young child can be indicative of serious problems in the home. You need to understand if this one of those homes.





# Review of Anchoring

***How does anchoring affect the way we conduct a scene investigation?***

# **What are some common examples of when you might make positive initial judgments situations about parents?**

- ▶ ***What are the potential problems of positive initial judgments?***



# A Review Of Biases

- ▶ *How does biases impact the way we conduct a scene investigation?*



# A Review of the Rule of Optimism

- ▶ **How does the Rule of Optimism impact scene investigations?**



# Optimistically Thinking.....

**How do the following impact investigations?**

- ▶ **The parents/caretakers are cooperative**
- ▶ **The house looks good (or at least OK)**
- ▶ **The children appear unafraid**
- ▶ **The explanation seems reasonable**
- ▶ **It is uncomfortable to questions**



**A father brings his child into the ER with a head trauma. He reports the child was playing on the monkey bars in the park across the street from his house. He indicated that he was watching the child play from his window, when the child, who was hanging upside down from his legs, fell onto the concrete pavement, head first.**

**The investigator met the father, child, and doctor at the hospital. The doctor indicated that the father's account was consistent with the injury.**

**CASE CLOSED, UNFOUNDED, RIGHT?**

**Well, actually..... the investigator went to the home and noted that there was no playground equipment or park in the neighborhood. There were no monkey bars visible from any window in the home.**

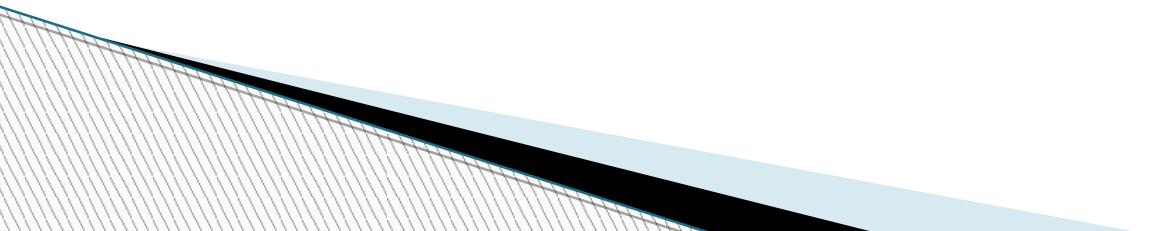
**In fact, the father had struck the child in the head with a wrench as the child kept “bothering” him while he was making some car repairs.**



# **Strategies for Counteracting Biases/Impressions**

- ▶ Be aware of personal biases and reflect on these in your work
- ▶ Distinguish evidence/information from your interpretations and judgments of the evidence
- ▶ Always tie interpretations/judgments to evidence
- ▶ Actively consider alternative hypotheses (alternatives to your own impressions)—per SACWIS—include and address information for differing conclusions
- ▶ Gather evidence systematically in all cases—avoid shortcuts and consciously avoid letting your impressions/hypotheses limit information gathering

# **Activity**

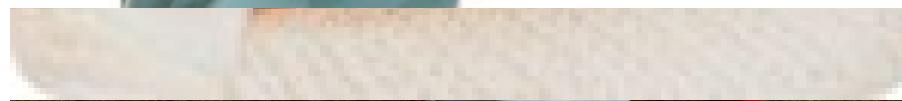


# Home Safety Checklist

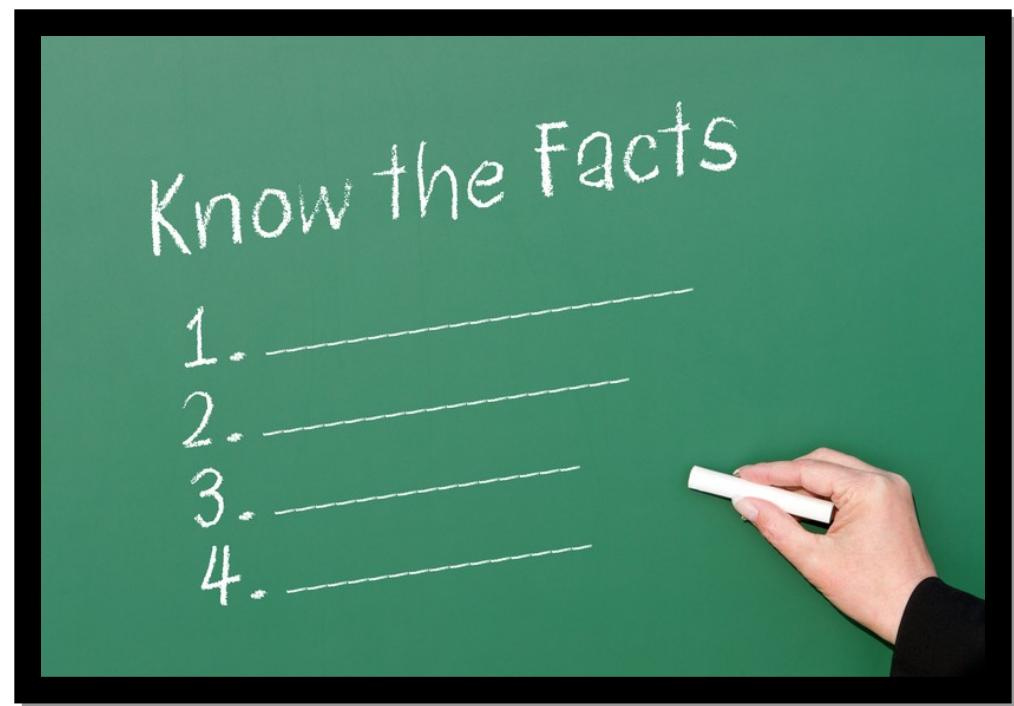


► See the “Home Safety Checklist For CPSW (CFS 2027)”

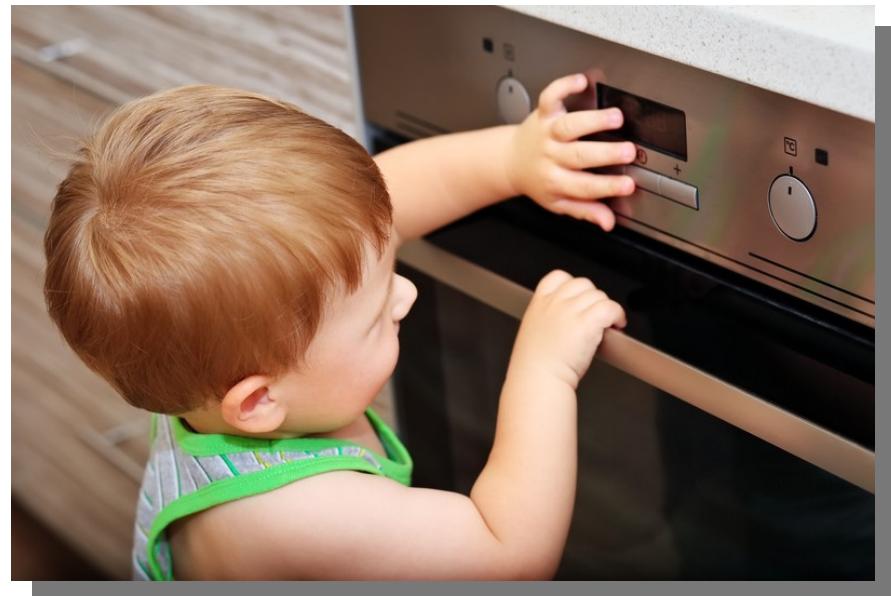
# **What are the leading causes of unintentional deaths of children under the age of five in Illinois?**



# **How is the Home Safety Checklist linked to the CERAP?**



# **What are the milestones for when the Home Safety Checklist should be completed?**



# How to Complete the Checklist

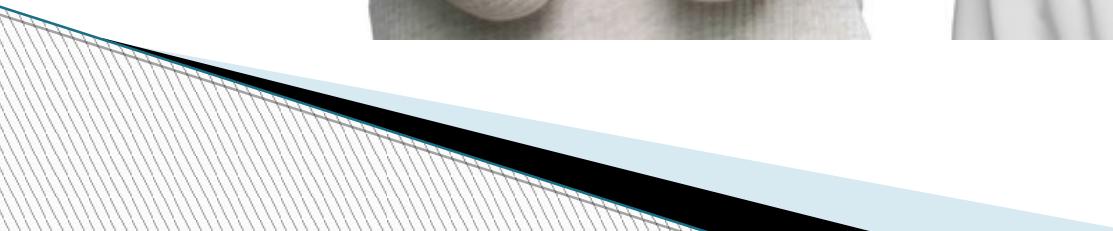


- ▶ **Responsibility is shared by the parent**
  - Provide a copy of the **Home Safety Checklist for Parents and Caregivers**
  
- ▶ **Parent can decline**
  - Document the refusal



**In this situation, what  
are you required to do?**

**...what shouldn't you do?**

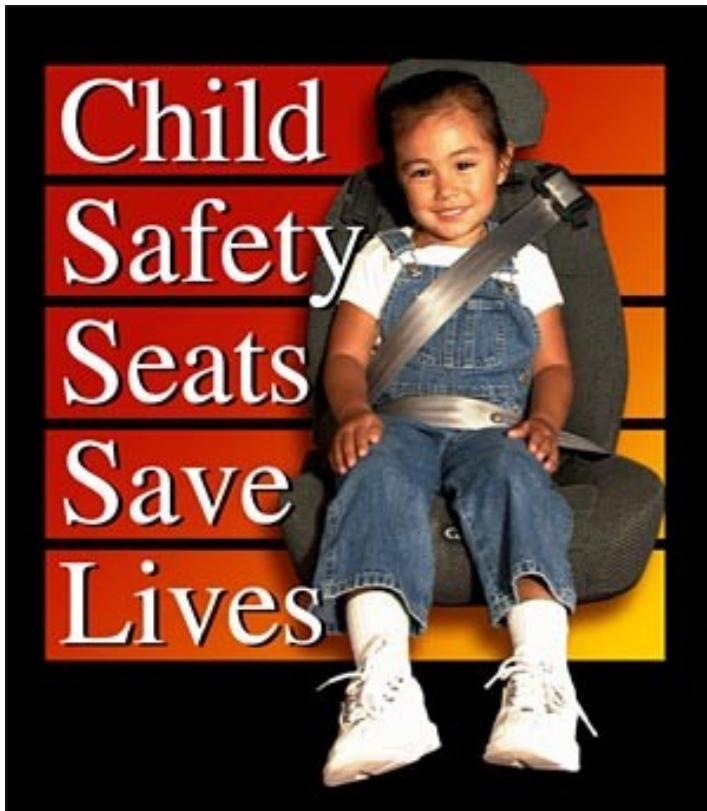


# The following six pieces of literature that must be provided :

- 1. Parent's Guide to Fire Safety for Babies and Toddlers"**
- 2. Back to Sleep**
- 3. Get Water Wise - Supervise**
- 4. Never Shake A Baby!**
- 5. Violence Prevention**
- 6. A Helpful Guide for Parents and Caregivers**



# **Summary - Home Safety Checklist**



- ▶ **Opportunity for collaboration with the family**
- ▶ **Links to ...**
  - CERAP
  - Allegations
- ▶ **Questions**
- ▶ **Concerns**